



MICHIGAN

To: Honorable Members of the Michigan Transportation Committee

From: Charles Owens, State Director

Date: September 21, 2011

RE: House Bill 4162 – Small Business sign exemption

We are writing to you to ask for your support of House Bill 4162 that would exempt small signs from the Highway Advertising Act.

Currently a permit is required by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) if a business erects a sign where the sign face is visible from an interstate highway, freeway, or primary highway.

MDOT has enforced this requirement on private property even where the property is owned by the business in question, or the business has the permission of the property owner to post the sign.

Often a small business will erect a sign off-premises with the permission of a property owner directing traffic to their business or advertising the business. MDOT will notify the owner that they must have a permit under the law. When the business owner contacts MDOT to obtain the permit they are told they are no longer being issued and the owner is instructed to remove the sign or face penalties under the law. MDOT will often notify business owners of this law and requirement, even though the sign may have been in place for many years.

Some business owners have indicated that more than half of their sales can be attributed to signage such as previously described.

Again we ask you to support HB 4162.

Thank you for your support of small business.